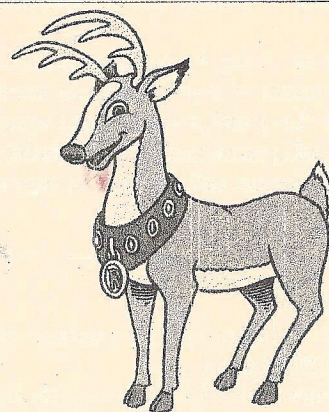
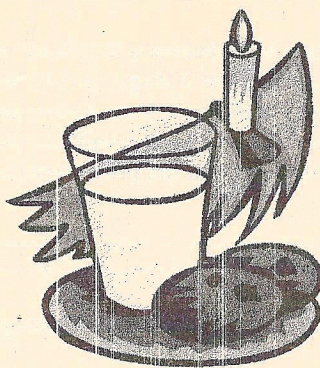


BAR HILL NEWS

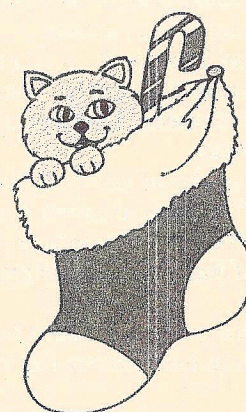
December 2007 Issue 448

The Bar Hill News is also available on audio tape

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from this free service, please contact Julie at Camsight 01223 420033



**A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO
ALL OUR READERS**



There is no "News" in January (to give the production team time to have Christmas!). Copy date for the next issue is therefore 15th January to Margaret Sellars at bhneditor@yahoo.com, or see page 2 for other contact details.

BAR HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

07/08 Committee

Chairman	Mr R Hall	780304	11 Almond Grove
Vice-Chairman	Mr M Avery	781233	34 Acorn Avenue
Secretary (acting)	Mrs B Waters	201421	77 Foxhollow
Treasurer	Mr R Iyer	200910	56 Oatlands Avenue

Bar Hill News

Editor	Mrs M Sellars	C/o Parish Council Office
Advertising Co-Ordinator	Mrs B Waters	201421 77 Foxhollow
Distribution Co-ordinator	Mr M Avery	781233 34 Acorn Avenue

Also: A Pallan, E Wilmer, and Kirsten and Paul Goodfield (200228 15 Little Meadow)

The Objectives of the Association are to act as an intermediary between the Residents and other parties, to keep residents informed of matters of importance and recreation in and around the Village, and to promote the interests of Bar Hill. Opinions expressed in this publication and not necessarily those of the Association. **Anonymous letters will NOT be published, but names and addresses may be withheld.** However, these may be made available should a written request be received. This is a private publication and may not be reproduced in any way without the prior permission of the Bar Hill Residents' Association Committee.

ADVERTISING

All matters relating to advertising should be addressed to the Advertising Co-ordinator (see above – email to bunty.waters@ntlworld.com)

¼ page adverts cost £13.50 per month and must be submitted by the 1st of the month prior to inclusion.

Maxi ads (£7.50 per month) and **Mini ads** (price currently under review) should be submitted by 15th of the month prior to their inclusion.

The ¼ page ads are for local businesses and we guarantee publication. This often results in a waiting list and, to help overcome this problem, we provide maxi and mini ads. These appear throughout the publication and we cannot guarantee their inclusion due to restrictions of space.

EDITORIAL

There is no charge for **Articles, What's On, For Sale and Lost and Found**, and these appear at the Editor's discretion. Please submit items by 15th of the month.

All telephone numbers without an area code are Crafts Hill (01954).

All items can be submitted **electronically on disc or to bhneditor@yahoo.com.**

HEALTH CENTRE

Dr Hassan, Dr Ranasinghe and the Practice Nurses

Surgery Hours (tel 780442)

Monday to Friday, 8.30 am – 12 noon and 2 – 6 pm

Out of Hours Emergencies tel 01223 464242

Midwife Monday, 2 pm onwards

Physiotherapist Tuesday 2 – 5.15 pm

Psychiatric Nurse Wednesday, 2 pm onwards

Chiropody Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 am – 12 noon, Thursday 2 – 5 pm

Dietitian 1st Tuesday of month, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Orthoptist 2nd Tuesday of month 9 am – 12.30 pm

CAMTAD 4th Tuesday of month, 9 -11.30 am

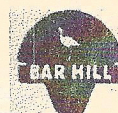
Child Health Clinic 1st Friday of month, 2 pm onwards

Health Visitors are now based at Longstanton Branch Surgery, Magdalene Close, Longstanton (tel 781855)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

● Church Office 206120 ● Conservative Party (Iris Lay) 205265 ● Happy Hours (Sid Hunt) 201384 ● Liberal Democrat Party (Tom Flanagan) 780571 ● Library (renewals and enquiries) 0845 045 5225 ● Parish Council (Leigh Baffa) 780456 ● Police 0845 456 4564 ● Pre-School Playgroup 07754 433981 ● Samaritans 01223 364455 ● School 273305 ● Social Club 781881 ● Savesey Village College 230366

BAR HILL VILLAGE HALL



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Training days

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Excellent parking and catering facilities



206179

Dear Editor

In reference to Nick Richardson's letter calling yet again for the removal/redevelopment of the "Barber's Shop" at the entrance to the village, I felt the answer given did not deal with the main issue.

I fully understand that to redevelop it as a lettable building, there are issues on cost of construction and also ongoing issues with locating a subsequent tenant.

You also mentioned that when these issues are resolved the Hotel will allow access for such purposes. You failed however to give any form of rational answer as to why the building cannot be immediately removed, which is all that the vast majority of the village want. You suggested that its interim removal could result in something unpalatable taking its place. That is absurd, you could not possibly build anything without a planning consent. It would also not in my view then become a place for temporary dwellers, or whatever the current phrase is, as it is too small.

So I ask again.....why can the current eyesore not be removed immediately, whilst the longer term plans are formulated. It has stood as an eyesore for 25 years now, isn't it time to get rid of it?

Rod Bishop

14 The Fairway

Dear Editor

I am writing to totally support Nick's letter in the November Edition. We were promised something would be done about the Barber's shop. Why keep making excuses - is it a listed building!?- please just pull it down and plant a tree on the land. This will leave the Parish council free from having to apply for planning permission for another building and also the embarrassment of having such an eyesore at the entrance to our village.

And I agree with Nick it's time for action NOW not 2008 - please write to the Bar Hill News if you agree.

Regards

Bridget Small

Oatlands Avenue

CORRECTION

Residents who are concerned about the illegal selling of cars around the village should contact South Cambs District Council (08450 450 063) and **not** the County Council. Apologies for any confusion caused!

Margaret Sellars

Chairman - Parish Council

FOR SALE

Large Guinness bar mirror

Measures just over 2 feet by 18 inches

Heavy solid wood frame

Quite old but excellent condition **£40**

phone 07956953900.



Dear Editor

We were on holiday at the end of October and our daughter was looking after our Cairn terrier. She came home from work and let the dog out into the back garden. She then rushed upstairs and, unfortunately, on her way down she slipped and banged her head. When she came round the dog had escaped. After searching all Thursday night and Friday morning she rang the Police Station and she was told that the dog was there.

The Police say they are unable to tell us who took her in as they did not tick a certain box on the form, giving permission for them to do so. They did say it was someone from Bar Hill and we did take a "thank you" card to the Police who said they would forward it to the people involved. As we are not sure this has been done I would like to give the following message to the kind person/people concerned: "Many thanks for taking our terrier to the Police Station when she was lost on 18 October - we are very grateful."

Wendy Cade

(What a lovely story—and a happy ending! Ed.)

Trimline B104, exercise bike, upright, £150

Unwanted gift, as new, only used a few times, still has protective film on LCD screen. Comes complete with manual, adjustment tools, power plug.

RRP Over £300

Features:

1 user, 12 pre-set and 4 heart rate controlled programs

Backlit LCD console simultaneously displays speed, time, rpm, distance, effort, calories and pulse

Heart rate monitoring

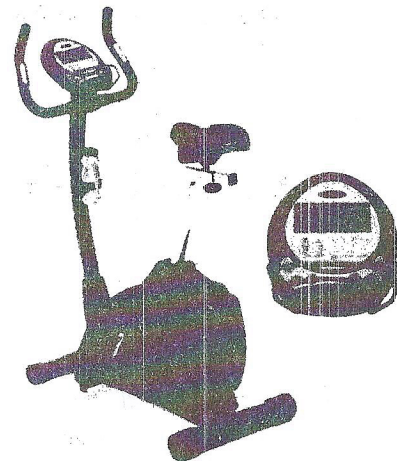
Transport wheels for easy manoeuvrability.

Dimensions (LxWxH): 96 x 51 x 131cm

Max. User Weight: 125 kg / 275 lbs/19 st 9 lbs

Product Weight: 54 kg

Please contact: Donna, on 07748 637342. Can be delivered to any Bar Hill address.



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Join in lively discussions and make friends. Enjoy stimulating conversations and share enjoyment. These are just some of the pleasures of belonging to NWR

Why not try something new? We meet informally and have discussions on a variety of topics. Discover NWR for yourself, join in and broaden your horizons. Our meetings are held once a fortnight on a Thursday evening.

13th December

All I want for Christmas – Giving presents: is it a good or a bad thing, or should we give to charity? – discussion - at: Heather's

3rd January

She's leaving home – 3 'must have' things to take, three things you would leave behind – Why? - at: Jane's

17th January

Dogs for the blind – A talk on puppy training by: Councillor John Reynolds - at: Bobby's

Saturday 19th January

NEW YEAR SOCIAL – MEMBERS AND PARTNERS ONLY—French themed evening with 'Gourmet Cuisine' and Quiz - at: Karen's

31st January

Agony Aunts – what advice would you give? Please bring interesting letters from problem pages—at Di's.

The Bar Hill group welcomes women of all ages, we would love to see you, do give it a try – it's only £1.00 per evening to cover costs.

If you would like more information, or someone to accompany you to a meeting please do not hesitate to call Bobby Colver on 781662 or Heather Wheeler on 781208. You can also find us on www.nwr.org.uk - it's worth a look!

Bob Menzies, Head of Delivery for the Guided Busway said, "I'd like to thank local people for their patience and understanding during road closures."

The Council is now progressing towards Cambridge and starting work on the next busway junction on Park Lane, Girton (also known as Gatehouse Road). Park Lane will be closed from Monday 29th October to all motor vehicles. There will still be access for cyclists and pedestrians. The road will re-open in late February 2008.

Mr Menzies added, "I know it is frustrating and inconvenient for local people to have to deal with these road closures but we are doing our best to get the work completed as quickly as possible. I'm sorry for the delays and diversions people face."



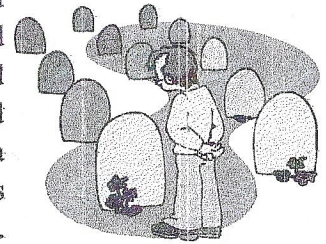
The Royal British Legion

Bar Hill Branch meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm in the church meetings room. Following November's AGM the committee remains unchanged.

Recently following an appeal in the Cambridge Evening News we collected from our members the sum of £93.70 which will go to Christmas treats for the wounded and their families of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

In October, 13 members and friends joined a trip to Arras in France. We followed in the footsteps of the Cambridge Regiment through the course of the Great War. We had an excellent guide and also had on board members of the Western Front Association, a group who have studied this subject in detail using written memories, the Regimental war diaries and letters home, including those from Commanding Officers to next of kin.

It was hard to believe that this beautiful area was once a sea of mud covered with shell holes and trenches. We visited several cemeteries and memorials including a memorial to the animals who died in this conflict.



All without exception were kept in immaculate condition. The most striking of these was at Theipal which lists the names of 60,000 personnel with no known grave.

Our last visit was to Vimy Ridge, the Canadian memorial of shining white marble, set on a plinth inscribed with the names of men who have no known grave. There are two columns depicting Canada and France surrounded by classical statues, and one statue of a grieving widow. On this site there are unexploded armaments which are never to be excavated as there are around 7000 men whose bodies cannot be recovered.

This certainly was a time for reflection and Remembrance. Mary Shubbotham (781553) Secretary



RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Interested residents are always welcome at our meetings which are normally held on the second Monday of the month at the Parish Offices at 8 pm. The next meeting will be on 10 December.

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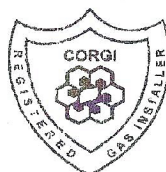
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BAR HILL COLTS F.C.



We are now well into the season, which means cup competitions begin. It seems many of

is progressing well. Leading the way, our U13 Bulldogs beating Coton convincingly 12-1 followed by our U11 Raiders getting through with a 3-2 win over Cherry Hinton. Our U15 Jets team successfully battled against a team from a higher division with **Jake Hayden-Smith** scoring the only goal. I hope I can report on more successes next month.

Papworth blasted by the Devils

Bar Hill U17's 4 - 2 Papworth U17's

This was our third encounter with Papworth this season and, even though we won the last two, they were hard games. Conditions were good but the pitch a bit bumpy as the game kicked off. We settled down almost immediately and were rewarded after some excellent passing football with a goal, coming from a **Richard Pool** cross which was taken by **Luke Sewell** on his run into the box.

Papworth turned the game around with 2 goals to take the lead. With the game evenly balanced, **Bryn Thomas** made what could have been a match saving save in another one-on-one situation. This was a wake up call for Bar Hill who then started to play some excellent football and were rewarded with two goals from **Ali Tezcan** and **Ollie Barnard** - a shot from an almost impossible angle to make it 3-2. The second half was a good contest, which forced Bar Hill to make some critical substitutions, which allowed us to go on to win the game 4-2 with another **Ollie Barnard** goal.

Our league record to date leaves us on 7 wins from 7 games played - an excellent record in a tough league.

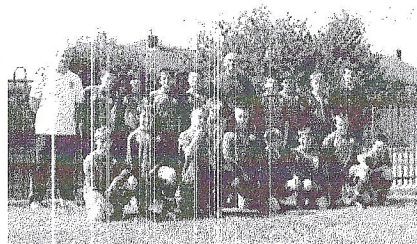
Page closes book on Bottisham

Bottisham 1 - 4. Bar Hill Bulldogs

The match kicked off with a wind of Siberian proportions blowing the length of the vast and open acres that are the Bottisham Village College playing fields.

Even with the wind against us, we dominated the first half, playing some of our best football this season. Unfortunately no one seemed

to be able to get on to the end of the superb crosses put in by **George Leland** and **Tom Beresford**. Bottisham's long ball game was destroyed by the wind that either carried the ball into keeper **Rob Salaman's** arms or was swept up by last defender **Zac Smith**. The breakthrough came two minutes before half time when **Joe Moore**, on his debut for the Bulldogs, got on the end of another excellent cross. **1-0 at half time.**



Five minutes into the second half, **George Leland** scored with a cracking shot from outside the area taking a two-goal lead. Following a substitution, and being on the pitch for only about 10 minutes, **Tom Page** beat Bottisham's offside trap and hit the ball with great conviction into the roof of their net.

Now three goals down Bottisham rallied and began to attack in numbers down the right flank resulting in a goal being scored. Encouraged, our hosts continued to attack and would have scored again if not for a goal-line clearance from **Tom Page**, who then with a minute and a half left chased down the ball and his persistence paid off and the ball broke to him after winning the tackle. The ball was rolled over the line into the empty net by our super-sub. This was a great team performance played in difficult conditions against a side that are very good defensively. The victory gives us great hope for the rest of the season.

NEW MEMBER

As you will notice from the committee list we have a new member - **Tina Andrews** - to help with our entertainments who recently organised a very

successful and enjoyable race night. Both the Colts and the Adult clubs would like to thank everyone who came and supported the night.

The next joint event is a Christmas disco in the Village Hall on 15 December - see any manager or committee member for tickets, which only cost £ 5

COMMITTEE

POSITION	PERSON	TEL
Chair:	Barry Dean	205670
Vice Chair:	Paul Gedny	201074
Secretary:	Paul Neal	205076
Fixtures	Mark Honeywood	01480 830133
Treasurer:	Jairo Marin	781838
Entertainment	Janette Barber	781533
	Michelle Davies	201246
	Rob Humphreys	781583
Public- Web ity:	Tina Andrews	789778
	Kevin Salaman	201701
	BHN	Vicky Neal 205670
Parents Rep:	Gail Pridgeon	203229
Child Welfare:	Mark Honeywood	01480 830133

Murray Mints Girton

Girton Colts 1-4 Bar Hill Colts

On Saturday 10th November Bar Hill Colts played Girton Colts away in division 10A of the mini-league, Bar Hill started well with a good strong defence and stopped Girton getting any shots in, up the other end the Girton keeper was kept very busy. Just before half time **Thomas Edwards** got the first goal.

The second half started with Girton equalising but our heads kept high. With teamwork and determination in every department, finally the hard work paid off with a goal from **Thomas Edwards** followed by two from **Jack Murray** after being set up by man of the match **Jordon Waites**.

Every player worked hard in a rewarding 4-1 away win, which put the team top in the league.

CONGRATULATIONS

A special mention to **Jairo Marin** on receiving a well-deserved award from Cambs FA for his 'continued dedication to grassroots football in the

county'



BAR HILL COLTS
IS A CHARTER
STANDARD CLUB



Vicky x

FRIENDS OF BAR HILL LIBRARY

The coffee morning on 1 November was quite well attended with some very lively conversations.



On 1 December there will be a **Bumper Christmas Book Sale** from 10 am – 12 noon. Do come along as there will be bargains for all at 3 books for £1.

The next coffee morning will be on Thursday 6 December 10 am to 12 noon as usual. Anyone is welcome to drop in for a drink.

Family History's helpful friends will be on hand on 20 December with their expertise and guidance 10 am – 1 pm and 2 pm – 4 pm.

Moving on to **2008** with a coffee morning on Thursday 3 January 10 am – 12 noon. All are welcome.

A gentle reminder that subscriptions are due for the year for old and new "Friends". New faces bring new ideas, which is always a good idea. The "Friends" **New Year Social** will be held on 11 January, 7 pm – 9.30 pm. Tasty nibbles and wine, coffee or tea will be available along with a few brain teasers. **Tickets will be available in the library at 50p each.**

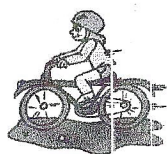
Looking ahead to February, the usual coffee morning on 7 February and the book sale on Saturday 9th, 10 am – 12 noon.

We would like to wish all the library users a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Thank you for using your local library.

WANTED

Girl's cycle - 20"
possibly suitable for a 6 year old
Tel. 202266



MISSING MOGGY?

If anyone is missing their black and white cat, or it does not come home every day, please contact us on 780245 as we would like to know where it lives.

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Bar Hill Parish Council
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(Near the Health Centre and Octagon)
Tel: 780456
Email: bhillpc-1@btconnect.com

Parish Council Web Site – www.barhillpc.org.uk.

This will keep you up to date on current affairs in the village including meeting minutes and agenda.

Stream Work

The cutting back of the stream is now complete for the winter. Hopefully this will keep the water flowing freely. The spring will see more work to the stream as we have to reinforce some of the banks. This should hopefully not inconvenience residents too much.

Looking out for one another

If you have an elderly resident living close to you, please keep an eye on them over these cold, dark nights.

Police Surgery

Karen Mahoney, our PCSO, is holding police surgeries in the Parish Council Office every third Wednesday in the month between 10 am and 12 noon. If you have any issues you would like to raise with the Police please come along and see her. No appointment necessary.

Mountain bike and Scooter found

Still have the bike and scooter at the office. If these are not claimed by the end of December I shall find them a good home.

Parish Council Meetings

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on **Thursday 13th December** at 7 pm in the Parish Council Office and all members of the public are welcome to attend. On behalf of the Parish Council may I wish all residents a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

HANDY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Streetlights: 0800 253529 give the CC No. (written on post).

South Cambs District Council: (01223) 443000

Dog Fouling (01223) 443012.

County Council (damaged paths and roads): (01223) 717111

Leigh Baffa

Parish Clerk

Tel: 01954 780456



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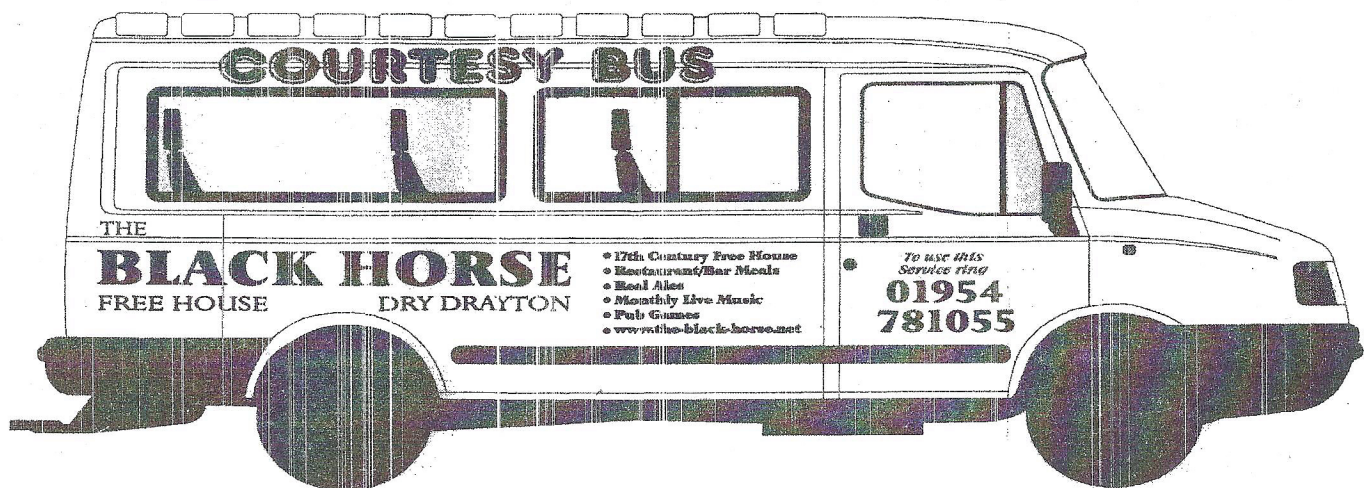
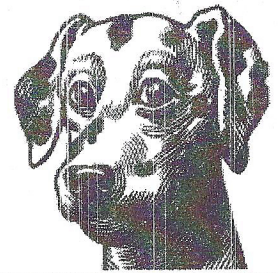
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Our new purpose built Pre-School attached to the Village Hall has bright and airy rooms and a large fully enclosed garden, providing a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment for children aged 2 - 5 years.

The aim of Bar Hill Pre-School is to provide high quality care and education by focusing on each individual child's ability, encouraging their development through Birth to Three matters and progressing to the foundation stage curriculum.

Our main emphasis is learning through play.

Your child will be able to explore a variety of activities in an educational setting required by OFSTED. Our experienced, qualified Early Years team Sonya, Karen, Karen, Sarah, Jacqui and Emma supervise our sessions.

We are also delighted to welcome Paulina to our team. Our Key worker system enables the early years' team to meet the needs of each individual child through planning their own individual educational plan and next steps.

Subsidised places

We offer reduced sessions rates for parents/carers on Income Support/Working tax credit. We also accept child care vouchers from your employer.

Early Years Funding

We can offer 5 free sessions when your child is eligible, currently the term after their 3rd birthday.

Play Tots Session

9.15 - 10.45 Tuesday

This is our session for babies to Pre-School.

We have lots of fun and a large selection of activities, including our new soft play den and toys especially for the tots. Sessions are held on a pay as you play basis. Drinks and fruit are provided.

Rising 5's session

This session is for children in their final year at Pre-School. This is a more structured session preparing them for school entry.

Session Times

Monday	9.00 - 11.30	12.30 - 3.00
Tuesday	Play tots	12.30 - 3.00
Wed	9.00 - 11.30	12.30 - 3.00
Thursday	9.00 - 11.30	12.30 - 3.00
Friday	9.00 - 11.30	12.30 - 3.00 (rising fives)

We offer a lunch club 11.30 - 12.30 daily

For more information please contact the Pre-School

direct on (01954) 782892

during session times or feel free to pop in and see us. Alternatively contact Sarah our session allocation Co-ordinator on (01954) 781871 before 7 pm weekdays.

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Hours: Mornings 5 days per week, and increasing in the New Year.

Qualifications; Minimum Level 3

All candidates need to have previous experience in working with young children, have a commitment to equal opportunities, and must be willing to learn, with a friendly, flexible approach.

Closing date for applications: 03.12.07

Contact: Louise Gamon on 01954 789858 for applications



CRAFTS HILL BRIDGE CLUB

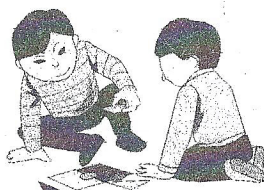
The club plays duplicate bridge every Wednesday in Longstanton Village Institute Hall in the High Street, starting at 7 pm. We have members from Longstanton, Over and other local villages.

This is a small friendly club of mixed standard and we welcome visitors and new members. (Sorry, but not suitable for complete beginners.)

Just turn up (with a partner) or for further information please telephone 230121.

Parent and Toddler Group

Bar Hill parent and toddler group is a welcoming and friendly charity group run by a committee of parents to provide play and socialising for children (and parents) from 0-4 years of age. The sessions run **Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:45 to 11:15am** during term time and are held in the Octagon.



Georgie runs both sessions and provides a wide range of activities which include arts and crafts, puzzles, dressing up, role play and a wide range of outdoor toys (weather permitting).

The cost of each session is **£1.90 for the first child and £1.00 per sibling up to a maximum of £3.00 per family or childminder**. Under ones are free if accompanied by an older child. This fee includes refreshments for both parent/carer and children.

For any more info' please call Hanna on 200232 or Julie on 780445.

XMAS FUNDRAISING

Raffle tickets will be going on sale shortly at £1.00 per strip, to win a wonderful **Christmas hamper**.

Quiz sheets will be going on sale on 14th Nov at £1.00 per sheet. There will be **two prizes**, one adult and one child. All correct entries will be drawn from a hat to find the winning sheets. Entries to be returned by 7th Dec. The draws for both events will take place during the session on Wed 19th Dec.

XMAS PARTY

On the last session before Christmas, Wed 19th Dec, we will have a Christmas party with a **very special visitor**.



COMMITTEE NEWS

We now have three new members, so our thanks go to Karen, Lisa and Vanessa for joining us and a big thank you to our existing members of Hanna, Victor, Julie, Norma, Lucy, Ruth and Sharon for all their hard work, not forgetting our session leader George for all her support.

That's it for now: hope you all have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.



UNDER ONES

The Under Ones meet on a Tuesday, 10 till noon, in the Church Octagon (term time only). All are welcome – expectant and new mums, carers, grandparents, fathers. Refreshments are 50p. There are toys and books, and full changing facilities. It's a great chance to chat and relax, while babies sleep or play, and make new friends.

Alwyn Keeves on 781050

BIN COLLECTION DATES

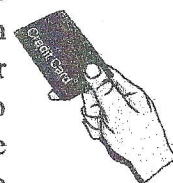
5 December	Black bin
12 December	Green bin and box
19 December	Black bin
26 December	NO COLLECTION
Thursday 3 January	Black bin
9 January	Green bin and box
16 January	Black bin
23 January	Green bin and box

CONGESTION CHARGE?

As you may know, Cambridgeshire County Council is about to start a wide ranging consultation campaign about tackling congestion. On Tuesday 13 November we started a programme of roadshows across the county to give people an opportunity to find out more about our vision for tackling congestion and also for them to give us feedback. More information is available on our website (www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/congestion) and there is an online survey for people to fill in.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Regards,

Kara Hill



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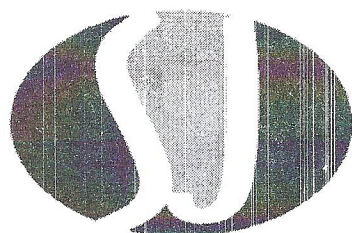
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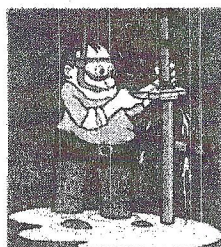
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Bar Hill THE PLAYSTATION Out of School Club

SPARC Building, Gladeside
Tel: 07883 739368 during Club hours

We are situated in a purpose built building next to the School, with direct access from the playground. We provide Childcare for children aged 4-11 in a safe and caring home-from-home environment, with trained and experienced staff.

Our sessions provide the children with a wide range of activities from pool to computer games, dressing up to craft, and lots more or, if they wish, they can chill out on our comfy sofas. We can also use the safe environment of the school playground for outdoor activities.

During the holidays we have themed activities, which the children are involved in choosing, as they are with many other issues, such as outings etc - as it is their Club, they even chose its name. The children are given a snack, such as pasta or filled pittas, followed by a biscuit and fresh fruit. We also make birthday cakes to celebrate each child's birthday, which are shared.

We are registered with OFSTED, and we accept employers' childcare vouchers.

Session Times

After School 3.10 pm - 6 pm Mon - Fri

School Holidays 8.15 am - 6 pm Mon - Fri

Closed on Bank Holidays

Hiring

Our large room is available for hire for parties and meetings etc. £6 per hour, £10 for kitchen (per booking) minimum hire charge of £20.

We currently have some vacancies, both after school and during the holidays. If you would like more information, an information pack or to arrange a visit, call Patsie on 201079 or 07921 541549.

We are now taking bookings for our holiday club.

We are open on 20th and 21st of December and 2nd, 3rd and 4th of January. Please phone or call in for further details or to book a place.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy and a healthy New Year.

Patsie Cotler

Bar Hill Out Of School Club

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Wardrobe with 5 mirror doors
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Bar Hill Childminders



Thinking of going back to work or fancy some 'me' time? Then why not leave your child in a friendly family environment with a childminder who is registered with Ofsted, is an NCMA member and fully

insured. We offer a wide range of activities including trips to parks and toddler groups, crafts, music, stories, cookery and much more!

Come and meet us at **Coffee and Kids** in the Octagon on Thursdays between 10.00 am and 11.30 am for a coffee and a chat.

Childminders with current vacancies are:-

Karen	Before and after school (5-8) and above 781151
Debbie	Full and Part-Time (0-5 & 5-8) 201739
Hanna	Before and after school (5-8 yrs term time only) 200232 Friday (0-5 yrs)
Melanie	Call for more details 204496
Kirsten	Full and Part-Time (0-5 & 5-8) 200228
Judith	Call for more details 201919

Coffee and Kids

Run by Bar Hill Childminders for parents/carers/childminders of babies and pre-school children. Come and join us on Thursdays (term time only) in the Octagon (Church buildings) from 10 am - 11.30 am. £1.80 per adult. Price includes coffee/tea/hot chocolate for adults, soft drinks and healthy snacks for children. We have a large range of indoor and outdoor toys and a safe soft play area for babies.

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MEETING THE COST OF CARE - COUNTY COUNCIL FACES FUNDING SQUEEZE

Cambridgeshire County Council will face a major challenge in meeting the cost of providing care for vulnerable and older people in the county over the next 12 months. The Local Government settlement next year has been set at 1% above inflation - the worst financial deal for local government in a decade. County Councilors will have to find ways of making up the shortfall in vital services areas by **increasing council tax and cutting the cash for other services**. The only option for us will be above-inflation council tax increases and cuts to other services.



The cost of caring for older people is being transferred to council tax payers. We have both a statutory and moral obligation to meet the support needs of vulnerable and older people and those with disabilities - we can't just say we don't have the money - we have to find the money from somewhere and that means we will have to take a very hard look at all areas of spending as we set the budget and at how much we will be able to raise additional income from the council tax payers of Cambridgeshire.

This is the fastest growing county in the country and the fastest growing sector of the population is among the over 65. Some of the pressures the council knows it faces include:

- * The number of people aged 85 and over in Cambridgeshire is expected to increase by 1,200 over the next 3 years;
- * In the last 2 years there has been a 21% increase in the number of people with learning disabilities using social services.



The County Council currently provides 96,573 hours of home care to around 11,700 people a week with some people receiving three visits a day. The County Council also supports around 5,000 older people in residential care home and nursing homes. The cost of providing home care is approximately £1.5 million every four weeks and demand is increasing by 100 people a month.

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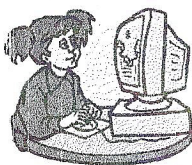
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THANK YOU!

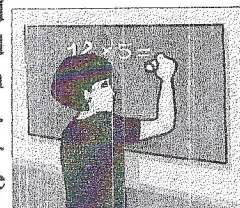
Thanks to our residents' generosity the **bucket collection** on 5 November amounted to £418.25, £100 of which will go to St. John Ambulance and the rest to **CLIC Sargent** (charity which cares for children and young people who have cancer).

News From The School...

At Bar Hill School we continue to go from strength to strength! Last year we celebrated being the first primary school in Cambridgeshire to achieve the prestigious award of the Quality Mark in ICT. Then in July 2007 we were awarded the International Award by the British Council for the third time.



Despite continual falling rolls at school due to the local demographics, we continue to maintain our high standards and high spirits! We are extremely proud of the citizenship element of our curriculum. Our children are helpful, kind, caring and respectful of their village and community and for many of them Bar Hill will be their future lives. Our anti-bullying council, citizenship group and school council are renowned throughout Cambridgeshire for the good work they do.



Next year we will celebrate 40 years (on Wednesday, 10th September 2008). The school opened under the leadership of Bill Norton the first headteacher of Bar Hill School and who appointed me as a newly qualified teacher in 1974. Roger Kilsby then took over as head in 1988 and latterly myself since January 1997.

I truly believe that Bar Hill has a wonderful, supportive and exciting community spirit and I am proud to be part of it. On behalf of all the children, staff, governors and PTA I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Lin Whyte

Headteacher

Children Starting Reception In September 2008

If you have a child starting school in September 2008, please can you ensure that you apply for a reception school place by the 19th December to the Admissions Team at Shire Hall. This will ensure admission for September 2008.

If your child attends a Bar Hill playgroup, you should receive a copy of the admission booklet from them. If you have not received one, please contact the school office (273305) for a copy of the admissions booklet.

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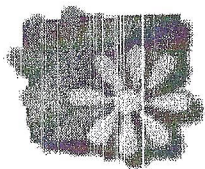
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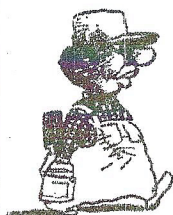


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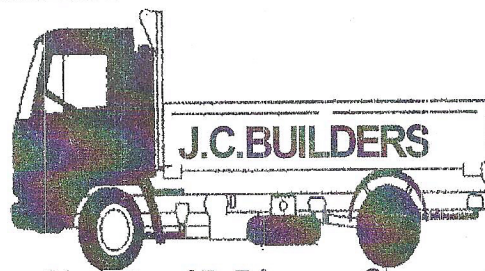


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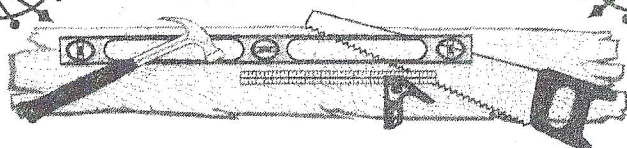
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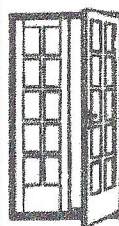
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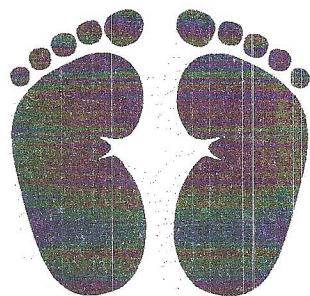
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The South Cambs Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP)

This organization exists to coordinate how the county council, the district council, the police and other local organisations deal with problems such as crime, anti-social behaviour and drug and alcohol misuse. The CDRP has met to consider the crime and disorder issues in their area. The partnership considered statistical evidence collated from a wide range of sources and have agreed a draft list of priorities to be dealt with during the 3 years, 2008 to 2011. These will receive additional attention, above what work is already carried out. **We are now seeking the views of people who live and work in the district** on the chosen priorities over the next month by the completion of a questionnaire. To complete the questionnaire please follow the link <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/community/priorities> If you would like to know more about what the CDRP does then please visit <http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/regions/regions00.htm>

Bridget Fairley

Partnership Support Officer

Tel: 01954 713367 Fax: 01954 713149

NORTHSTOWE

Council chiefs have received a letter from Housing Minister Yvette Cooper saying that Northstowe cannot be an eco-town. The Minister goes on to say she is prepared to consider extra funding for Cambridgeshire but the County would not receive any extra eco-town funding. Sir David Trippier, Chairman of Cambridgeshire Horizons, said: "There was enormous confusion over this matter. Even if we had been granted eco-town status it would have resulted in considerable planning delays, so now we can move on as quickly as possible with the planning application due to go to South Cambridgeshire District Council in December.

RAIL FREIGHT INVESTMENT WELCOMED

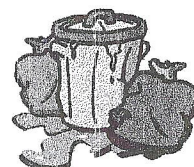
County Councillors have welcomed the news that Government is set to improve rail freight between Peterborough and Nuneaton with an £80 million investment. This will lead to less freight being carried by lorries on Cambridgeshire's roads. This is part of a £132 million investment in support of rail freight to get around 300,000 lorries off the country's roads.

SHOCKING STATISTICS GIVE FOOD FOR THOUGHT ON RECYCLING

Shocking figures show that nearly a quarter of what goes in Cambridgeshire residents' bins is food that hasn't been eaten or is past its sell by date. Recycling chiefs are suggesting residents can save themselves pounds if they shop smarter and save the environment if they recycle their food waste rather than letting it go to landfill.

The latest waste analysis for the County shows Cambridgeshire residents throw away 156 kg of food waste each year which equates to around 23 per cent of their bins. Whilst some of this is unavoidable, such as bones, a large proportion is compostable, such as tea bags and peelings, and more still is food that is simply out of its date, or not eaten - in other words, wasted.

John Reynolds



For Sale:

Full length mirror with pine surround (on stand)
£10.00

Ikea children's blue swing chair (attached to ceiling) with fixings (not been used)
£35.00



Mel Stamp 203554
 (174 The Spinney)

Message from PCSO Karen Mahoney

Please be aware as Xmas is approaching. A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number). **DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize.** If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call. If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 02072396655 or ICSTIS (the premium rate service regulator) at www.icstis.org.uk.



REMEMBER

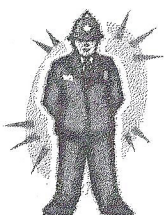
Security

Now that the dark nights are here you should bear the following in mind! When going out to work in the morning try and leave a light on, preferably on a timer.

Thieves would think twice about entering a house which may be occupied or gives the appearance of being so.

Welfare

I am asking you to be on the lookout for tell tale signs with regards to your elderly neighbours' welfare. Where you see milk, papers, mail etc building up and you note the curtains have not been drawn back these are all signs that there could be a problem. Also obtain from them details of their next-of-kin and a contact phone number. The last point I wish to add is for your neighbour to let you know when they will be away from their house eg holidays etc.



COURSES AT BAR HILL SCHOOL

Run by the University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education - Tutor Liz Carter

Water, Water Everywhere – Fenland History 1600-2000

10 meetings, Tuesdays at 7.15 pm from 8 January 2008

Fee £72 (£56) 10 credits at Level 1

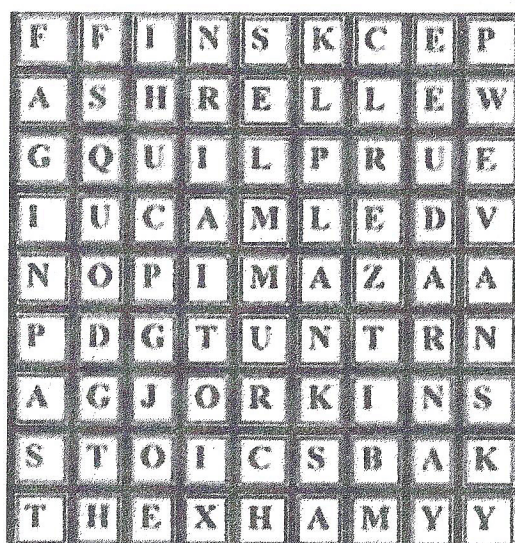


History on your Doorstep – a Practical Guide

Some walking required. 10 meetings, Tuesdays at 7.15 pm from 15 April 2008

Fee £72 (£56) 10 credits at Level 1

For more information
Courses Registrar—280399



SUDOCARD—WERE YOU SUCCESSFUL?

Solution to November's puzzle:

REMBRANDT 18 5 13 2 18 1 14 4 20

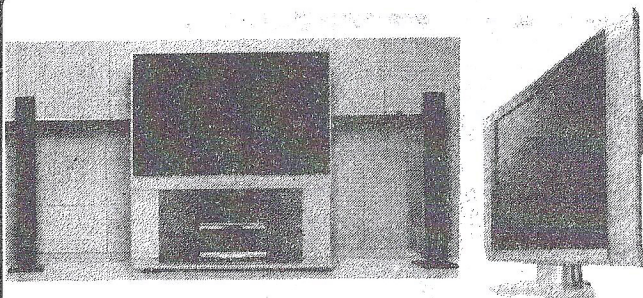
SOLUTION TO WORDSEARCH—DID YOU GET THEM ALL?

Boxing, Carol, Christmas,
Day, Draw, Dove, Gift, King,
Jingle, Prize, Punch, Quiz

DICKENS—WORDSEARCH

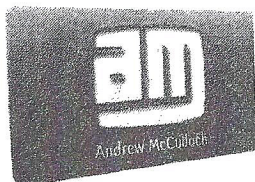
The 26 letters of the alphabet appear at least once in the surnames of 12 characters in different works. Can you find them?

Reading forwards, backwards, vertically or obliquely—the solution will appear
(Answers in February!)



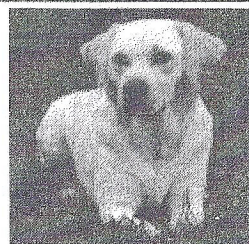
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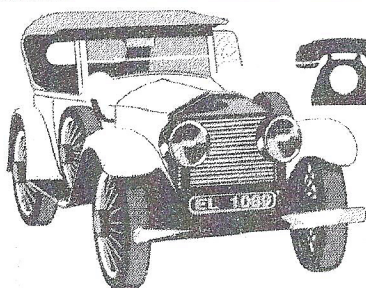
My love for dogs.

'My love for dogs' offers home boarding for your canine friend. I am a dog lover, smitten with them and my home is totally dog friendly. I am delighted to open up our home so that whilst you are on holiday, your dog has a holiday in the comfort of our home, with a totally secure garden.

I am fully insured, police checked and have grown up with dogs all my life. Holly, our beautiful golden Labrador puppy, now 9 months old, loves to play with new friends.

Rest assured that your dog will have at least two long walks a day either at the heath nearby to our home, or in the fields surrounding our village. We also utilise on a daily basis on local village recreation ground and play ball games there.

Should you require any further details please do not hesitate to call Amanda Bishop on 07903806750



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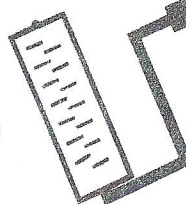
INDUSTRIAL

COMMERCIAL

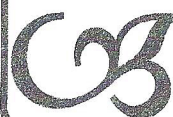
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**Simon Shore
MA, VetMB, MRCVS**

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9.00 - 11.00 am Saturdays, 10.00 - 11.00 am Sundays

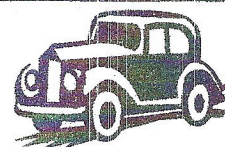
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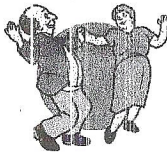
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OPENING TIMES: MON-FRI 8.00am to 5.00pm SAT 8.00am to 12noon

Happy Hours

The recycled youth club

As Christmas approaches let me, on behalf of all the members of Happy Hours, wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please remember the true meaning of Christmas – be happy and communicate happiness.



AGM 2007 The 18th Annual General Meeting of Happy Hours was held on Monday, 12 November with 61 members present. The minutes of the last AGM, which had already been circulated, were approved and signed. The Chairman, **Sid Hunt**, who had welcomed everyone to the meeting, then gave an account of our activities, not only over the past year, but also over the past eighteen years since the Club was formed. He praised the foresight of the late Jimmy James, and his wife Phyllis (who was present), for their hard work in forming the Club in the earlier years.

He thanked the Committee and other members who had helped throughout the year, for their support and hard work. He then announced that, after all these years, he would be standing down from Office. This we know is mainly due to his health problems.

At this stage **Mrs Phyllis James** presented Sid with an inscribed whisky glass, a small bottle of malt whisky and a cheque, which had been subscribed to by all members of the Club as a token of their esteem for his long service to the Club. Sid, although a little overwhelmed, made a suitable reply.

Mrs Ruby Hunt, Treasurer, then presented the accounts for the year, which had also been circulated. Although the expenditure for the year was £450.00 more than the income, the accounts were approved. During the year we had donated a total of £547.15 to various charities.

Mrs Joan Tanton reported on speakers, indicating that she had one or two lined up for the New Year.

Mrs Helen Collins reported on holidays and cutings she was arranging for the New Year.

Elections The following were elected to the Committee – Ruby Hunt (Treasurer), Ernie Arnold, Terry Barnes, Helen Collins, Win Holt, Phyllis James, Betty Kerr, Terry Marshall, Joan Tanton and Fred Taylor.

Propositions There was one proposition from the floor of the meeting – that the weekly subscription should be raised from 60p to £1. This was passed unanimously.

Competitions Following the AGM, Mrs Phyllis James was called upon to present the prizes to this year's winners of the various competitions. She did this in an excellent manner. The winners were as follows: Darts (Ladies) Mary Askham, Darts (Men) Ernie Arnold, Rummikub Shirley Florence, Table Tennis Fred Taylor, Crib Ernie Arnold, Dominoes Dennis Holt, Scrabble Keith Morris. The winners were congratulated by all present, and each received a shield and a small cup.

Raffle A raffle held on Monday 29 October raised the sum of £76.50 which has been donated to the East Anglia Air Ambulance. A letter has been received thanking the Club

for the donation. Many thanks to our members for their excellent support.

Birthday Party On Monday 19 November we will be celebrating the Club's birthday, when all members will be treated to a lunch, a sweet and a glass of wine. The lunch will be followed by musical entertainment provided by "Storming Norman".

Christmas Cards Once again we have decided not to send each other cards this Christmas, but to make a suitable donation instead which this year will be donated to a charity yet to be decided.

Sickness I hear that Norma Sowter is not too well at the moment. We do hope she improves before Christmas. Also Fred Taylor who is suffering from a bad attack of shingles. Get well for Christmas Fred. Apart from a few minor injuries and ailments, I am pleased to report of no other known cases of illness. I trust you all have a good Christmas.

Dennis Holt

780948

Football Project

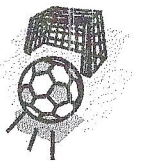
The pitch is being used regularly for Colts football training and the 5-a-side league. However we still have times available at the weekends. The pitch is suitable for football and many other sporting activities such as mini tennis, hockey, bowls, volleyball and multi sports - it's a great venue for birthday parties. If you wish to find out more about hiring the facility then contact our **Bookings Secretary, Julie Marin on 781838.**

The officers of the Management Committee are:

Chairperson Alan Hewings

Secretary Paul Thorby

Treasurer Jairo Marin



Can you help?

The "News" is in need of new volunteers to join our team of about 50 helpers. We currently have room for new **collators**. Collating involves assembling 100 copies of 15 sheets each and stapling them with the electric stapler that we provide. This typically takes about an hour. We usually ask you to pass the completed copies to the person who will deliver them, or to one of the organisers, but we can arrange collection if necessary.

Could you help with **printing**? This could take place during the day or evening, at the Parish Council offices. The process is relatively simple and training can be arranged. The printing time for a complete issue is about 15 hours, shared between the volunteers.

Could you help with **delivery**? This is typically to between 40 and 70 houses.

We produce 11 copies each year (February to December), and we often ask you to help with the Fete Programme as well. If you are willing to help with any of these tasks, please contact either Martin Avery (781233) or Raja Iyer (200291).



Dear Residents

A14 ANNOUNCEMENT—NOT YET!!

We all must have welcomed the announcement last month of the route for the upgraded A14 but yet another month has slipped by without the expected appointment of the contractor.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF TRADING STANDARDS

Getting up early on a wet morning to be part of a raid on a Wisbech market brings into focus the problems and successes faced by Trading Standards. Usually we councillors get our information from briefings, reading committee papers or in press releases, but I was privileged to be invited to take part in a raid on illegal sale of goods, which started with a briefing at Wisbech Police station and ended up with a van load of counterfeit goods being seized. I was impressed with the professionalism of Trading Standards and how their officers work well with our partners such as the Police.

NO LATE NIGHT BUS FROM CAMBRIDGE?

This is an issue that has affected residents for the past 2 years, since the bus operator decided that they would not stop in the village due to a number of vandalism incidents that caused serious damage to the bus. The County Council is now out to re-tender this service and I have made representation to the County Council asking for the stop in the village to be included. It will be very difficult to get the operators to reverse their ban unless we convince them that there is sufficient demand and that vandalism will not occur. What I need is for those who would use this late night service to write to me, at the address below, calling for the service to be reinstated. Your action could help persuade the operators to change their minds and restore the late night bus.

I am available, either in person, by phone, letter or e-mail and can be reached as shown here.

Yours

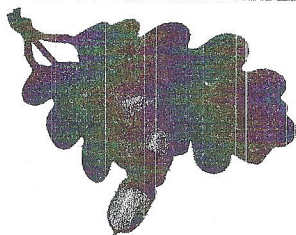
John Reynolds

4 Hollytrees Bar Hill
Tel: 200571
e-mail: john.reynolds@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



**Bar Hill Ecumenical Church - Services for
December 2007, including Christmas**

Sunday 2nd	10.00 am 6.30 pm	Agape Meal Advent Reflections
Wednesday 5th	6.00 pm	Uniformed Organisations Carol Service
Sunday 9th	8.00 am 10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Gift and Crib Service Evening Prayer
Sunday 16th	10.00 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Village Carol Service
Tuesday 18th	2.30 pm	Senior Citizens Carol Service
Sunday 23rd	10.00 am	Holy Communion (no evening service)
Monday 24th	4.00 pm 11.00pm	Christingle Ser- vice Late night Communion
Christmas Day	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 30th	10.00 am	Holy Communion (no evening service)



LITTLE ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL

Little Acorns is a privately owned, non-profit making, pre-school. We are situated in the meetings room (next door to the main church building) and all play leaders are qualified Nursery Nurses/Teachers. We are open every day, morning and afternoon, during school term time (9.15-11.45 am and 12.30-3 pm). There is a lunch club every day from 12 noon.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons are especially designed for children in the year before they start school and have a slightly different structure to our other sessions, including cookery, PE, woodwork and music.

Children are welcome to attend from age two years. From the term after their third birthday children are entitled to 5 free sessions per week. We offer a "places for all" policy, whereby we subsidize or give free places to families in need. Annually, we ensure that at least three or four children are able to access good quality pre-school education through this scheme. Please enquire about this. Parents may choose to help at sessions during our "bring your Mum or Dad to Acorns" weeks, which are very popular.

For more information, a prospectus, registration form, copy of our OFSTED report or to arrange a visit, please telephone Sally on 201074. If you would like to arrange a visit please phone Acorns direct on 7851803083.

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WEDNESDAYS 8:00 - 9:00PM

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Hi everyone in Bar Hill

My name is Lacey. My mum is a pretty golden retriever and my dad is a black flat coat retriever. I have two sisters and five brothers we are all black. I bet my mum got a big surprise when she saw us all. My birthday was 29th July so when you read this I will be over four months old. I have come to live with granddad and grandma (Diana and John Reynolds) to learn all about the world, meet lots of lovely kind people, go to exciting places and learn to be a good obedient puppy so that when I am big I can go to guide dog training school.

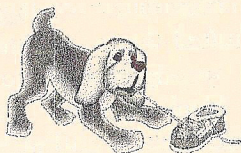
I go to Tesco's every day. It is a very exciting place with lots of people to talk to and lovely smells especially near the meat and cheese counters and I love the dog food part although grandma won't let me play with the food packs, but sometimes if I've been good she buys me a special treat or a new toy. One day I discovered the floor is lovely and cool and slippery, so if I don't feel like shopping I lie down and go all floppy

so that when grandma pulls on the lead I have an exciting slide along the floor. That makes everyone laugh but grandma is a spoil sport and makes me get up and walk again. When we finish our shopping we go into the café. Grandma has a coffee and I get a treat and the chance to have a little snooze under the table but first I have to make sure my area is clean which is a lovely tasty job.

I have been sitting at the bus stop to get used to buses coming and going but today I actually had a ride on one. I really enjoyed it: it was a bit noisy but I soon got used to that so I lay down and watched all the people getting on and off. It all seemed a bit strange to me but grandma wasn't worried about it so I relaxed and had a little sleep till it was our turn to get off.

I have had a busy day so I will say goodbye for now.

Lots of happy barks and licks from *Lacey*



The Catholic Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs Hills Road, Cambridge (The Catholic Church serving Bar Hill)

Parish Priest: Mgr Tony Rogers Tel: 01223 350787
Deacons: Revd Robert Joyce, Tony Northrop and Tony Sutton
Local contact: Bunty Waters Tel: 201421

Mass at Bar Hill Church Centre Saturdays: 6 pm First Mass of Sunday

Masses in the Parish Church in Cambridge

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8 am and 12.15 pm
Tuesday 8 am and 7.30 pm
Saturday 6 pm First Mass of Sundays
Also 5 pm at The Ark, Cambourne, and 6 pm at Bar Hill Church Centre

Holydays of Obligation 8 am, 10 am, 7.30 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday 6.45 pm (not after Mass)
Saturday 10.30 – 11.15 am, 4.30 – 5.15 pm, 7 – 7.45 pm

Details of other services are published in the weekly newsletter which is available at the 6 pm Mass each Saturday – copies are available in the Church Centre.

WHAT'S ON?

December 2007

- 1st Book Sale Library
- 5th Uniformed Organisations Carol Service
- 6th Coffee Morning Library
- 8th Draw night at Social Club
- 13th NWR All I want for Christmas
- 13th Parish Council meets
- 16th Village Carol Service
- 19th PCSO Mahoney – Surgery Parish Council Office
- 18th Senior Citizens Carol Service
- 19th Parents and Toddlers' Christmas Party
- 20th Family History Library
- 21st Christmas Draw – Social Club
- 22nd Draw night at Social Club
- 24th Christingle Service
Late night Communion
- 25th Holy Communion
- 31st New Year's Eve Parties (Village Hall and Social Club)

January 2008

- 3rd NWR She's leaving home
- 3rd Coffee Morning Library
- 5th Draw night Social Club
- 11th New Year Social Library
- 17th NWR Dogs for the Blind
- 17th Parish Council meets
- 19th NWR New Year Social
- 19th Draw night Social Club
- 24th British Legion meets
- 24th Jack and the Beanstalk Panto Swavesey
- 25th Burns Night Social Club
- 25th Jack and the Beanstalk Panto Swavesey
- 26th Jack and the Beanstalk Panto Swavesey
- 31st NWR Agony Aunts

Sports and Social Clubs News

December 2007

'Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat....' and this is what is happening over the festive season at the social club. The Thursday fortnightly quiz will be held on 13th December. On Friday 14th we have two young lady singers called 'Kailis' appearing, which promises to be a good night.

The Christmas raffle tickets are selling well and lots of super prizes are being purchased. The Draw will take place on Friday 21st December.

The fortnightly membership draw has yet to be won and currently stands at £675! December draw nights are the 8th and 22nd. January dates are 5th and 19th. Don't forget you have to be in the social club with your card to qualify for a win.

The Christmas Panto for children of members will be on Thursday 27th at 3.00 pm.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

(see separate notice)

Burns Night will be celebrated on 25th January as usual. We are planning a full 3-month entertainment programme to set the pace for the coming year and take us through till spring!



Opening Hours for the Christmas Period

Sunday 23 rd December	midday – 11pm
Christmas Eve	midday – midnight
Christmas Day	midday – 2pm
Boxing Day	midday – midnight
Thursday 27 th	midday – 11pm
Friday 28 th	midday – midnight
Saturday 29 th	midday – midnight
Sunday 30 th	midday – 11pm
New Year's Eve	midday – 5pm 8pm – 1.30am
New Year's Day	midday – midnight
Wednesday 2 nd January	5pm – 11pm

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Julie Circuit

SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

**THIS YEAR'S NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY WILL
BE FOR MEMBERS OVER 18 ONLY**

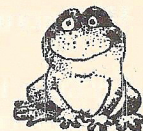
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GWEN ARMSTRONG
SOLO ARTISTE**

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TICKETS ON SALE FROM BEHIND THE BAR**

Nature Notes



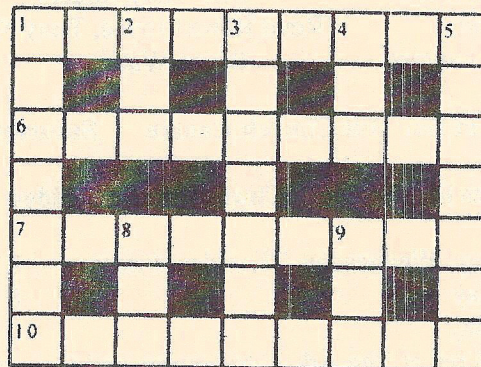
I recently visited my other "local" area to observe its wildlife. Ten minutes away is Fen Drayton Lakes ... second best site in Cambridgeshire to see wildlife, recently taken over by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, who are now "improving" the area. Bearing in mind the weather is a lot colder now, and all the wonderful dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies are gone, there is still such a wealth of wildlife to see. A recent visit, albeit a sunny day, but cold with a fairly strong wind blowing, I saw ... cormorants, red-legged partridges, green woodpeckers, tufted ducks, pochards, wigeons, great crested grebes, woodpigeons, crows, wrens, blackbirds, fieldfares, black headed gulls, moorhens, mallards, long-tailed tits, bullfinches, gadwalls, blue tits, goldeneyes, herons, coots, mute swans, teals, little egret, grayling geese, shovelers, kestrel, magpies, redwings, jays, great tits, lesser black-backed gulls, muntjac deer and a grey squirrel, in less than 2½ hours.

Had a feast of blackberries and wild apples, picked some shaggy inkcap fungi to cook and eat later at home, walked the many footpaths, Fleur, (my dog), swam in the River Great Ouse and the many lakes, just like Poppy before her used to.

The only downside is the amount of contractors' vehicles using the main area in preparation for the guided bus. I used to look over my shoulder to see if there was any wildlife I might have missed: NOW I have to look to see if there are any lorries coming ... progress I suppose? I know which I prefer – it's between something moving at a few miles per hour or something moving at 50 miles per hour ... guess which one!

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Answers for November

Across – 1. contracts, 6. nameplate, 7. exuberant, 10. tasselled

Down – 1. concert, 2. nom, 3. replete, 4. cha, 5. sleeted, 8. USS, 9. all

December's clues:

Across – 1. raincoat, 6. network or bovine stomach, 7. sixth sense, 10. northern hill of animal food.

Down – 1. decorate, 2. gamble, 3. proof of purchase, 4. I will, 5. Bury St —, 8. play with, 9. whaling commission.